

# THE ANNALS

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XLIV.—*On the Genus Plectostoma, H. Adams, and on the Animal of Diplommatina, Benson.* By WILLIAM T. BLANFORD, A.R.S.M., F.G.S.

### 1. *On the Genus Plectostoma.*

IN the 'Natural History Review' for 1864, p. 599, there appeared a letter from Mr. DeCrespigny, of Labuan, briefly describing a minute land-shell which he considered a living representative of the Triassic genus *Scoliostoma*. In an editorial note it was stated that the specimens accompanying the letter had been submitted to Mr. H. Woodward, of the British Museum, and were considered by that naturalist to be "closely allied to, if not identical with, *Opisthostoma*," described and figured by my brother in our joint paper published in the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal' for 1860.

In the March Number of the 'Annals' for 1865, p. 177, a shell, evidently the same as that referred to in the 'Nat. Hist. Review,' was described by Mr. H. Adams as the type of a new genus belonging to the Helicidæ, and named *Plectostoma DeCrespignii*. In neither of the two notices is any mention made of the animal. I recently called attention, when describing a second species of *Opisthostoma* from Western Africa, in the 'Proc. Zool. Soc.,' to the great similarity of external form between *Plectostoma DeCrespignii* and the Burmese Helicidous genus *Hypselostoma*. I had then only seen a photograph copy of a drawing of the *Plectostoma*, for which I was indebted to Mr. Benson. Within the last few days I have received specimens of this most interesting form from Mr. Damon; and from an examination of them I am convinced that Mr. H. Woodward's opinion of the affinities of the species is correct, and that it differs in no essential characters from *Opisthostoma*. In the paper just referred to as sent to the Zoological Society of London, I have shown, from an examination of the animal and operculum,

that the latter genus belongs to the *Cyclostomacea*, as was at first inferred by my brother from the form of the aperture and the sculpture, and that its nearest ally appears to be *Diplommatina*.

*Plectostoma DeCrespignii* closely resembles the two Indian species of *Opisthostoma* in the mode of flexure of the very remarkable last whorl, in the form of the aperture, and in the texture of the shell. There is a slight constriction at the spot where the last whorl is first deflected, though this is less marked than in *Opisthostoma*. The sculpture, though coarser, is smaller in character. The most important distinction is in the form of the spire, which is conical in *Plectostoma*; and the apical whorls are not excentric to the axis of the lower whorls as they are in the ovate spire of *Opisthostoma*. I scarcely think, however, that these distinctions will be regarded by any conchologist as generic; at the most they are subgeneric.

As I have but two specimens of the Labuan shell, I do not like to sacrifice one for the purpose of searching for the operculum, especially as the search amongst these minute shells of the *Diplommatina* group, in consequence of the small size and extreme tenuity of the operculum, is by no means always successful. I had to break open three or four specimens of *Opisthostoma Fairbankii* before I could obtain a glimpse of the operculum, and then I failed in isolating it. If any one more fortunate than I am, in the possession of specimens of *Plectostoma*, will carefully break back the last whorl to the point where it is deflected, or a little beyond, he will, I doubt not, find an operculum; and it will probably be horny, thin, and obscurely spiral, with rather few whorls, as is usually the case with *Diplommatina* and its allies.

## 2. *On the Animal of Diplommatina.*

I have more than once, within the last few years, called attention to the circumstance that, in the two supplements to Dr. Pfeiffer's admirable monograph of the living operculated land-shells, the position assigned to the genus *Diplommatina*, close to *Acicula*, and in a suborder distinguished by the position of the eyes *above* the base of the tentacles, is not in accordance with the structure of the animal. For some years past I have not had an opportunity of reexamining the animal of any typical species of the genus. I am indebted to Captain Godwin-Austen for the accompanying outline sketch of the animal of a species of *Diplommatina* inhabiting the Western Himalayas near Masúri, and apparently a variety of *D. pullula*, Benson, which was first found by myself near



o, operculum.  
s, lip of the aperture  
of the shell.

Darjiling. This species is a typical *Diplommatina*, with strong costulation and a well-developed columellar tooth.

The animal is sketched as it appears just emerging from the shell. The eyes, as will be seen, are distinctly lateral, as in *Cyclophorus*. I can trace no difference between the animal of this form and that of the smooth or spirally ribbed species of the Indian peninsula, which are by Pfeiffer classed as *Arinia*, in the neighbourhood of *Pupina*, in a different family, and even a distinct suborder from their nearest allies the typical *Diplommatinae*.

Central India, Feb. 1867.

XLV.—*Characters of some new Genera of the Coleopterous Family Cerambycidae.* By FRANCIS P. PASCOE, F.L.S., F.Z.S. &c.

THE eighth volume of the great work of Prof. Lacordaire being nearly ready for the press, I am desirous of publishing the following descriptions of some new genera of the family to which that volume will be, with the Prionidæ, entirely devoted, in order that they may take their place in that work, the plan of the author not permitting him to notice any genera which have not been published. These genera do not include several new forms discovered by Mr. Wallace in the Malayan Isles, which must unavoidably stand over for the 'Longicornia Malayana' publishing by the Entomological Society.

CHOROTHYSE.

(♀). *Antennæ* breviusculæ, 12-articulatæ, scapo perbrevis.

*Elytra* abbreviata, intra excavata.

*Tibiæ* posticæ elongatæ, curvatæ, compressæ.

*Abdomen* breve, segmentis duobus basalibus multo majoribus.

Head exerted, transverse anteriorly; clypeus broadly emarginate. Eyes large, reniform. *Antennæ* rather short, 12-jointed, a little thickish, distant at the base; scape very short, obconic; the third joint twice as long, the following gradually shorter, the last smaller and ovate. Palpi short, cylindrical. Prothorax transverse, broader than the head, rounded at the sides. *Elytra* short, hollowed out along the sutural margin, rounded at the apices. Legs unequal, anterior and intermediate short; posterior *tibiæ* elongate, curved, and compressed; tarsi short, narrow. Anterior *coxæ* exerted, contiguous. Pro- and mesosterna very narrow. Abdomen short, the two basal segments much larger than the rest, the second and following excavated, the excavation filled with hairs.